

# Transactions

**MARCH 2003**

TRANSPORTATION NEWS  
FOR THE NINE-COUNTY  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA



MAP DESIGN: RENECKANDRENECK.COM

## New Maps Show the Way To Enjoying the Bay

Over 230 miles of the Bay Trail are ready for exploration by walkers, bicyclists, rollerbladers, bird watchers and others attracted to the edge of the Bay. Where to start? The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) has just updated its series of detailed Bay Trail maps and guides. The full-color maps (one for each of six subregions) detail the trail alignment, points of interest and trail characteristics. Route recommendations on the back of each map include descriptions of the trail experience, parking locations and transit access. (For trail highlights, see back page of this newsletter.)

The maps sell for \$4 each or \$15 for the set (including shipping and handling), and are available by calling 510.464.7900 or visiting <[www.baytrail.org](http://www.baytrail.org)> or your local bookstore. You can also purchase at ABAG, located at the Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter, 101 Eighth Street, Oakland. PDF versions of the maps are available at the Bay Trail Web site listed above.

### The Bay Trail Project...

is a nonprofit organization housed in and staffed by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). MTC and ABAG share administrative costs, with MTC contributing \$140,000 annually from toll bridge revenues. The California Coastal Conservancy also has a major role in supporting and funding the Bay Trail.



JAY JONES



LEFT TO RIGHT: JACK YACOB; DON WEIDEN; RON HORII

## Bay Trail Takes Shape

CIRCUMNAVIGATING SAN FRANCISCO BAY BY FOOT AND BIKE GETTING EASIER

San Francisco Bay has always been at our feet, but thanks to a long-term, visionary project, today you can travel miles around its shoreline by bicycle and on foot. The Bay Trail has opened the panorama of our region's unique 450-square-mile estuary to experiences up-close and personal. You don't have to be a sailor or own a yacht to enjoy the tremendous variety of human activities and wildlife the Bay supports: marinas, fishing piers, ports, parks and habitat for hundreds of species, from oysters and sea gulls to pelicans, peregrine falcons and sea lions. With springtime in the air, and brand new maps available, now is the perfect time to get out and experience the beauties of the Bay.



The Bay Trail is a discovery route that travels through cities and towns, past historic and cultural points of interest, along beaches and into remote natural areas. The trail network consists of a continuous main path (the "spine") as well as "spurs" that lead to points of interest close to the shoreline, and inland connectors leading to commercial and residential areas. In San Mateo County, the trail meanders 17 miles from Coyote Point Park to San Carlos, while across the Bay, it runs a straight seven miles along the water's edge from the San Leandro Marina to the Hayward Regional Shoreline. From San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf, it stretches 20 miles across the Golden Gate Bridge to Sausalito and all the way to Tiburon. Depending on locale and terrain, the trail consists of paved paths, dirt trails, bike lanes, sidewalks or signed bike routes.

For nearly 3 million people who live within two miles of the route, the Bay Trail serves not only as a refreshing recreational opportunity, but as a transportation corridor connecting bicyclists and pedestrians to residential neighborhoods, schools and colleges, commercial and industrial areas and, most importantly, to public transit. The trail alignment is within two miles of 23 Caltrain, 22 BART, 19 Valley Transportation Authority, five

Muni Metro, six Amtrak and two ACE (Altamont Commuter Express) stations, hundreds of bus stops and 10 Bay Area ferry terminals.

When the Bay Trail plan was adopted in 1989, 170 miles already existed, due largely to efforts by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission to provide public access to the waterfront. It took a few years to build awareness and momentum, but, according to Bay Trail Project Direc-

The surge in bridge construction around the region also is good news for the Bay Trail: Bicycle/pedestrian paths are being incorporated into the new spans being built for the Benicia-Martinez and Carquinez bridges, as well as the new east span of the Bay Bridge. (The Golden Gate and Dumbarton bridges already offer Bay Trail access.) Reuse initiatives for closed military bases have provided still more opportunities to create shoreline access.



DON WEIDEN

tor Janet McBride, "Piece by piece, the Bay Trail is coming together. In the nine years since we last updated our maps, we've added or improved a total of 50 miles."

MTC has allocated nearly \$2 million in federal transportation funds to Bay Trail projects over the past few years. State funds for local communities to construct Bay Trail sections also have increased in recent years, with \$7.5 million flowing to the cause from the 2000 Proposition 12 park and open space bond measure.

Private developers are often urged to incorporate public access and construct trail segments as part of new development near the Bay.

Although the trail is more than halfway developed, McBride notes that many of the easier sections have been built, and the more difficult areas remain. Obstacles include industrial operations such as airports and active salt harvesting, hazardous- or toxic-waste clean-up areas, private property, sensitive

habitats, and roadways unsafe for bicycles or pedestrians. Trail development in some areas may depend on long-term roadway improvements, such as the possible widening of Highway 37 in the North Bay.

Standing on the shoreline, you can visualize how concepts of the Bay have changed from the days when sailing ships and ferryboats plied the waterways from shore to shore, to an inglorious era of its use as a dumping ground, to our recognition today of the Bay's inestimable value and the need to restore its natural contours and wetlands. After all, if it were not for San Francisco Bay, we would be just another area.

— Marjorie Blackwell

## Calendar

WEDNESDAY  
**MARCH 26, 2003**

**10 am**  
MetroCenter, Dahms Auditorium  
**Bay Area Toll Authority\***

**10:05 am**  
MetroCenter, Dahms Auditorium  
**Metropolitan Transportation Commission\***

THURSDAY  
**APRIL 3, 2003**

**10 am**  
MetroCenter, Dahms Auditorium  
**Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee**

WEDNESDAY  
**APRIL 9, 2003**

**9:30 am**  
MetroCenter, Dahms Auditorium  
**Administration Committee\***

**10 am**  
MetroCenter, Dahms Auditorium  
**Bay Area Toll Authority**  
**Oversight Committee\***

**10:30 am**  
MetroCenter, Dahms Auditorium  
**Public Hearing\***  
**Proposed Amendments to the 2003**  
**Transportation Improvement Program**

**10:35 am**  
MetroCenter, Dahms Auditorium  
**Programming and Allocations Committee\***

**12:30 pm**  
MetroCenter, 3rd Floor Conference Room  
**MTC Advisory Council**

FRIDAY  
**APRIL 11, 2003**

**9:30 am**  
MetroCenter, Dahms Auditorium  
**Planning and Operations Committee\***

**10 am**  
MetroCenter, Dahms Auditorium  
**Service Authority for Freeways and**  
**Expressways Operations Committee\***

**10:15 am**  
MetroCenter, Dahms Auditorium  
**Legislation Committee\***

TUESDAY  
**APRIL 15, 2003**

**3:30 pm**  
MetroCenter, 3rd Floor Conference Room  
**Minority Citizens Advisory Committee**

FRIDAY  
**APRIL 18, 2003**

**1:30 pm**  
MetroCenter, 3rd Floor Conference Room  
**Regional Agency Coordinating Committee**

MONDAY  
**APRIL 21, 2003**

**1:30 pm**  
MetroCenter, Room 171  
**Partnership Technical Advisory Committee**

WEDNESDAY  
**APRIL 23, 2003**

**10 am**  
MetroCenter, Dahms Auditorium  
**Bay Area Toll Authority\***

**10:05 am**  
MetroCenter, Dahms Auditorium  
**Service Authority for Freeways**  
**and Expressways\***

**10:10 am**  
MetroCenter, Dahms Auditorium  
**Metropolitan Transportation Commission\***

FRIDAY  
**APRIL 25, 2003**

**9:30 am**  
MetroCenter, Dahms Auditorium  
**Regional Airport Planning Committee**

\* Webcast on <[www.mtc.ca.gov](http://www.mtc.ca.gov)>

Note: Dates, times and locations of MTC meetings may change. Please confirm by calling 510.464.7787. Agendas, updated meeting schedules and packets for MTC standing committees are posted on MTC's Web site: <[www.mtc.ca.gov](http://www.mtc.ca.gov)>.



## Getting There 10 Bay Trail Segments You Can Walk or Bike This Spring

While it may be another decade before anyone can circle the entire San Francisco Bay on foot or by bicycle, opportunities abound now to head down to the waterfront and take in the beauty of the region's shimmering estuary and the graceful hills surrounding it.

(Mileage figures are for round trips except #1.)

### 1 San Francisco to Marin County Loop

The 20-mile route follows city streets to Fort Mason, then continues along the Crissy Field promenade and across the Golden Gate Bridge, through Sausalito and Mill Valley to Tiburon, where you can catch a ferry and relax on a 30-minute ride back to San Francisco. Or take a shorter, 8.5-mile route to Sausalito and return on the ferry.

### 2 Hotel Row/Peninsula

This easy 1-mile route along the shoreline fronting hotels in Millbrae and Burlingame offers pedestrians, bicyclists and rollerbladers views of San Francisco International Airport and its runways.

### 3 Palo Alto Baylands to Mountain View Shoreline Park

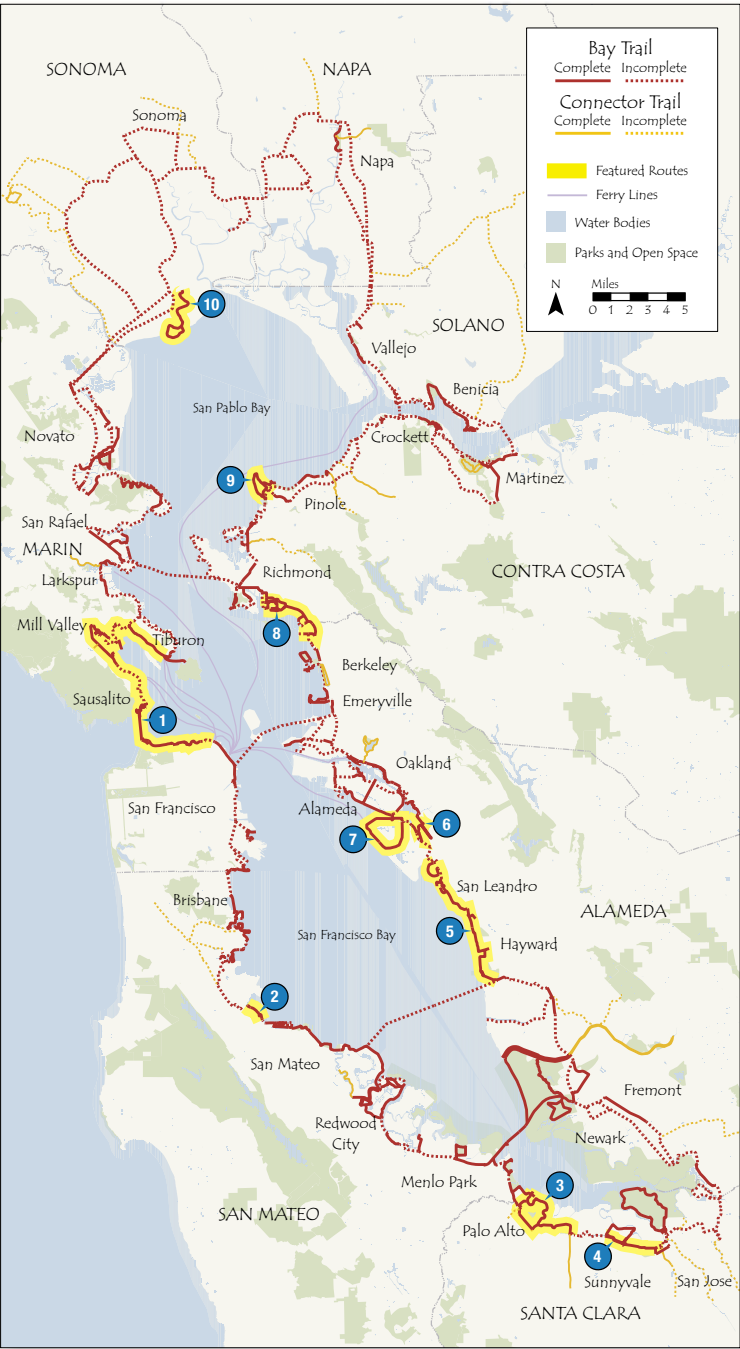
Along this 14-mile route, hikers and bicyclists can enjoy shorebird viewing at the Lucy Evans Interpretive Center in the Palo Alto Baylands and public art sculptures at Byxbee Park. Stop off at the historic Rengstorff House and the Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Study Area in Mountain View Shoreline Park.

### 4 Sunnyvale Baylands Park

This 7-mile trip follows a gravel levee trail around the Open Water Bird Preserve and through Sunnyvale Baylands Park. Continue on the levee loop spur trail for an additional 4.5-mile trek.

### 5 Oyster Bay to Hayward Regional Shoreline

Hike or bike along levee trails through a mosaic of landscapes including mud flats, salt marshes and grasslands. The 17-mile route traverses the 1,800-acre Hayward Regional Shoreline, rich in history, views and wildlife, as well as the San Leandro Marina.



When completed, the 447-mile Bay Trail will encircle San Francisco Bay proper as well as the adjacent San Pablo Bay.

## Facts & Figures Bay Trail at a Glance

447	Total miles of spine when completed	17	Miles — longest continuous off-street trail segment (Coyote Point Park to San Carlos)
99	Total miles of spurs when completed	130	Number of accessible parks and preserves when completed
60	Miles built or improved since project launch	300	Thousand dollars — average cost per mile to construct paved pathway
230	Current completed, signed miles	94	Million dollars — estimated cost to construct remaining segments (not including toll bridges)
174	Completed miles of paved asphalt		
56	Completed miles of gravel/dirt path		

### 6 Arrowhead Marsh/Oakland

Nestled in San Leandro Bay, Arrowhead Marsh is a hidden jewel — an important stopover along the Pacific Flyway that provides critical habitat for shorebirds and an oasis for trail enthusiasts. The 3.5-mile path follows the shoreline along the 50 acres of restored wetlands.

### 7 Bay Farm Island Loop/Alameda

Walkers, skaters, runners and bicyclists love this loop for its smooth paved path, convenient location, and picture-perfect views of natural and urban wonders. The trail loops around the perimeter of the island, passing by a ferry terminal, Bay wetlands, a golf course and a model airplane park. To extend the 6-mile route, cross the bicycle drawbridge and follow the trail through the Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary to Robert Crown Memorial Beach.

### 8 Albany Bulb to Marina Bay/Richmond

Enjoy spectacular views of the San Francisco skyline, as well as great people- and bird-watching along this popular 11-mile recreational stretch. Visit the Rosie the Riveter Memorial sculpture in Marina Bay Park, or detour to the Albany Bulb to view constantly changing murals and found-object sculptures.

### 9 Point Pinole Regional Shoreline

The Point Pinole Peninsula juts dramatically out into San Pablo Bay. This 4-mile route leads you through deep eucalyptus groves (a stopover for migrating monarch butterflies), then opens onto wide grasslands. The trail follows bayside cliffs to the fishing pier, with sweeping views of Mount Tamalpais and San Pablo Bay.

### 10 Tolay Creek Trail/Sonoma County

This 9-mile segment follows Tolay Creek in the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge from State Route 37 to Lower Tubbs Island and Midshipman Point. Follow the levee trail along tidal marshes for exceptional shorebird and waterfowl viewing.

For route details, see the just-updated Bay Trail guides. (Order information is on the front page.)

NATURE ILLUSTRATIONS: RYAN JONES 1, 2, 4, 6, 10 AND GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVANCY 3, 5, 7, 8, 9

## Commission Actions

### February 2003

- Adopted the *2002 High-Occupancy-Vehicle (HOV) Lane Master Plan Update*, which calls for fine-tuning the operation of the region's 350-mile network of diamond lanes, adding as many as 389 new miles of carpool lanes around the region by 2025 and beefing up the express bus network. (MTC Resolution 3531)
- Endorsed the Smart Growth Preamble and Policies developed by the Regional Agencies Smart Growth Steering Committee. The policies support developing housing in proximity to jobs and public transit, increasing the supply of affordable housing, and protecting and enhancing open space. (MTC Resolution 3533)
- Voted to support (with changes) two proposed state constitutional amendments to relax the supermajority (two-thirds) requirement for passage of local transportation tax measures.

## Announcements

### High School Internships

MTC is now recruiting for approximately 40 high school internships around the Bay Area in the summer of 2003. The deadline is Monday, April 14, 2003. Application forms and instructions are available at: <[www.mtc.ca.gov](http://www.mtc.ca.gov)>. For more information, contact Human Resources Analyst Ann Macaulay at 510.464.7721 or <[amacaulay@mtc.ca.gov](mailto:amacaulay@mtc.ca.gov)>.

### New Transbay Express Bus Offers Free Rides

AC Transit is launching the region's newest transbay express commuter bus service — Line M across the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge — beginning Monday, March 17, with free fares for the inaugural month. For schedules and stops, visit <[www.transitinfo.org](http://www.transitinfo.org)>, or call 511 and ask for AC Transit.

### Air Quality Workshop

MTC and its partner agencies have begun the process of developing the *2003 Clean Air Plan* and the *2004 Ozone Attainment Strategy*. You can participate by attending the kick-off meeting of the Ozone Working Group: Thursday, March 27, 2003 10 am to 12 noon MetroCenter, Dahms Auditorium

For further information, contact Henry Hilken at the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Tel. 415.749.4642, e-mail: <[hilken@baaqmd.gov](mailto:hilken@baaqmd.gov)>), or visit <[www.baaqmd.gov](http://www.baaqmd.gov)>.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION WWW.MTC.CA.GOV

### Commissioners

Steve Kinsey, Chair  
Marin County and Cities  
Jon Rubin, Vice Chair  
San Francisco Mayor's Appointee  
Tom Ammiano  
City and County of San Francisco  
Irma L. Anderson  
Cities of Contra Costa County  
Tom Azumbrado  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
James T. Beall Jr.  
Santa Clara County  
Mark DeSaulnier  
Contra Costa County  
Bill Dodd  
Napa County and Cities  
Dorene M. Giacomini  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Scott Haggerty  
Alameda County  
Barbara Kaufman  
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission  
Sue Lempert  
Cities of San Mateo County  
John McLemore  
Cities of Santa Clara County  
Michael D. Nevin  
San Mateo County  
Bijan Sartipi  
State Business, Transportation and Housing Agency  
James P. Spering  
Solano County and Cities  
Pamela Torliatt  
Association of Bay Area Governments  
Sharon Wright  
Sonoma County and Cities  
Shelia Young  
Cities of Alameda County

# Transactions

MARCH 2003

### Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter  
101 Eighth Street  
Oakland, California 94607

510.464.7700 TEL.  
510.464.7769 TDD/TTY  
510.464.7848 FAX  
info@mtc.ca.gov E-MAIL  
www.mtc.ca.gov WEB

Steve Heminger  
Executive Director

Ann Flemer  
Deputy Director, Operations

Therese W. McMillan  
Deputy Director, Policy

Randy Rentschler  
Manager, Legislation and Public Affairs

Brenda Kahn  
Editor

Catalina Alvarado, Joe Curley, Réka Goode,  
John Goodwin, Pam Grove  
Editorial Staff

Finger Design Associates, Oakland  
Design and Production

Paris Printing, Novato  
Printing

©2003 MTC. All rights reserved.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORT  
FIRST CLASS  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Oakland, CA  
Permit No. 854